GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2585
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
SUPPLY OF RICE THROUGH PDS
P. RAJENDRAN;SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments including Kerala have complained to the UnionGovernment about the supply of rice through Public Distribution System which is unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the Central issue price of rice allotted to the Public Distribution System ishigher than the open market price prevailing in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a)&(b): Good quality foodgrains conforming to PFA standards and free from insectinfestation are issued to State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes. A few State Governments, including Kerala, had complained in the past about the issue of poor quality of rice under TPDS. Nocomplaint has been received in the recent period about the supply of rice under TPDS which is unfit for human consumption.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that the foodgrains supplied to the States are of good quality:-

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stock prior to lifting from FCI godowns.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before their lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI during the issue of stocks from FCI godowns for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

(iv) The officers of the State Governments` and the Ministry conduct surprise checks of the FPSsto over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(v) The officers of the Department designated as `Area Officers` for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

(c): No Sir.

(d): Does not arise.